

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1, 7, 9 and 10. These sheets, which include Figures 1, 7, 9 and 10, replaces the original sheets including Figures 1, 7, 9 and 10. In Figure 1, previously omitted element has been added and arrows on dotted lines have been added. In Figure 7, the text on element 720 has been amended. In Figures 9 and 10, the word "DESERT" has been changed to "DESSERT".

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
 Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1-5, 14, and 17 are amended by this Amendment. Claim 18 is added by this Amendment. No new matter is added by these amendments and no range of equivalents is surrendered or intended to be surrendered. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,049,799 to Mangat et al. ("Mangat"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection since each and every element of the claims are not expressly or inherently described

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference," Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987); see also MPEP § 2131. "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Mangat, for example, fails to teach each and every element of claims 1 and 3.

For example, none of the paragraphs of Mangat cited by the Office Action discloses "a directory that stores the link relationships [between document objects]" or "storing the link relationship [between document objects] in one or more link directories," as recited in claims 1 and 3, respectively. In fact, no link relationships are stored in Mangat's Document Locator table.

Specifically, the Examiner cites Mangat Col 2 Lines 9-47 for disclosing the storing of the link relationship in one or more link directories. See page 3 of 11/17/2004 Office Action. Column 2 of the Mangat patent describes the objects of the invention. The objects of the invention refer to a Document Location table. Figure 7 is a schematic block diagram of a document location table. Figure 7 does not show storing of link relationships in a directory. The objects of the invention described in Col 2, lines 9-47 of Mangat fail to disclose, let alone teach, the storing of link relationships in a directory.

Therefore, claims 1 and 3 are not anticipated by Mangat. Applicant respectfully requests that claims 1 and 3, as well as dependent claims 2, 4-16 and 18 be allowed.

Claims 7, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mangat in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,209,036 to Aldred et al. ("Aldred"). Aldred does not cure the defects of Mangat with respect to claim 3. Therefore, these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons

recited above and their own independent features. Allowance of claims 7, 15, and 16 is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mangat in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,112,202 to Kleinburg ("Kleinburg"). Kleinburg does not cure the defects of Mangat with respect to claim 3. Therefore, claim 11 is allowable for at least the same reasons recited above and its own independent features. Allowance of claim 11 is respectfully requested.

With regards to claim 17, as the Office Action states on page 7, Mangat does not disclose "comparing the entered characteristics to available user characteristics." The Office Action goes on to state that "Kleinburg mentions links returned based on user specification." (Kleinburg Col 4 Lines 34-53). Applicant has copied the cited Kleinburg text below for Examiner's convenience. Kleinburg states that the invention can be utilized "to find a set of pages which are authoritative as to the subject matter in the pages located. This set of pages produced by the invention may include . . . pages not retrieved but which are linked to pages that were retrieved." "Comparing the entered characteristics to the available user characteristics" is not disclosed, discussed, or suggested by the Kleinburg text.

Alternatively, the user might begin with a query, such as a keyword-based search strategy in a Web search engine, and retrieve a set of pages that satisfy that query. The invention is then utilized to find a set of pages which are authoritative as to the subject matter in the pages located. This set of pages produced by the invention may include a subset of the retrieved pages, as well as pages not retrieved but which are linked to pages that were retrieved.

The method of the invention includes the following steps:

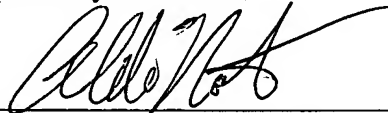
First, an initial set of pages is obtained. The method may begin with a single page, where the content of that page is of interest, or with a group of pages, for instance produced as a result of a keyword-based query by a Web search engine. Because of the content-based links (e.g., hyperlinks) between the pages, there will be a certain number of additional pages linked to or from the single page, or group of pages. The initial set, then, includes the single page or group of pages, plus the linked pages.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully assert that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt examination and allowance of claims 1-18 is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: **May 17, 2005**

Aldo Noto, Reg. No.: 35,628
Andrews Kurth LLP
1701 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006
Tel. (202) 662-2738
Fax (202) 662-2739

Attachments

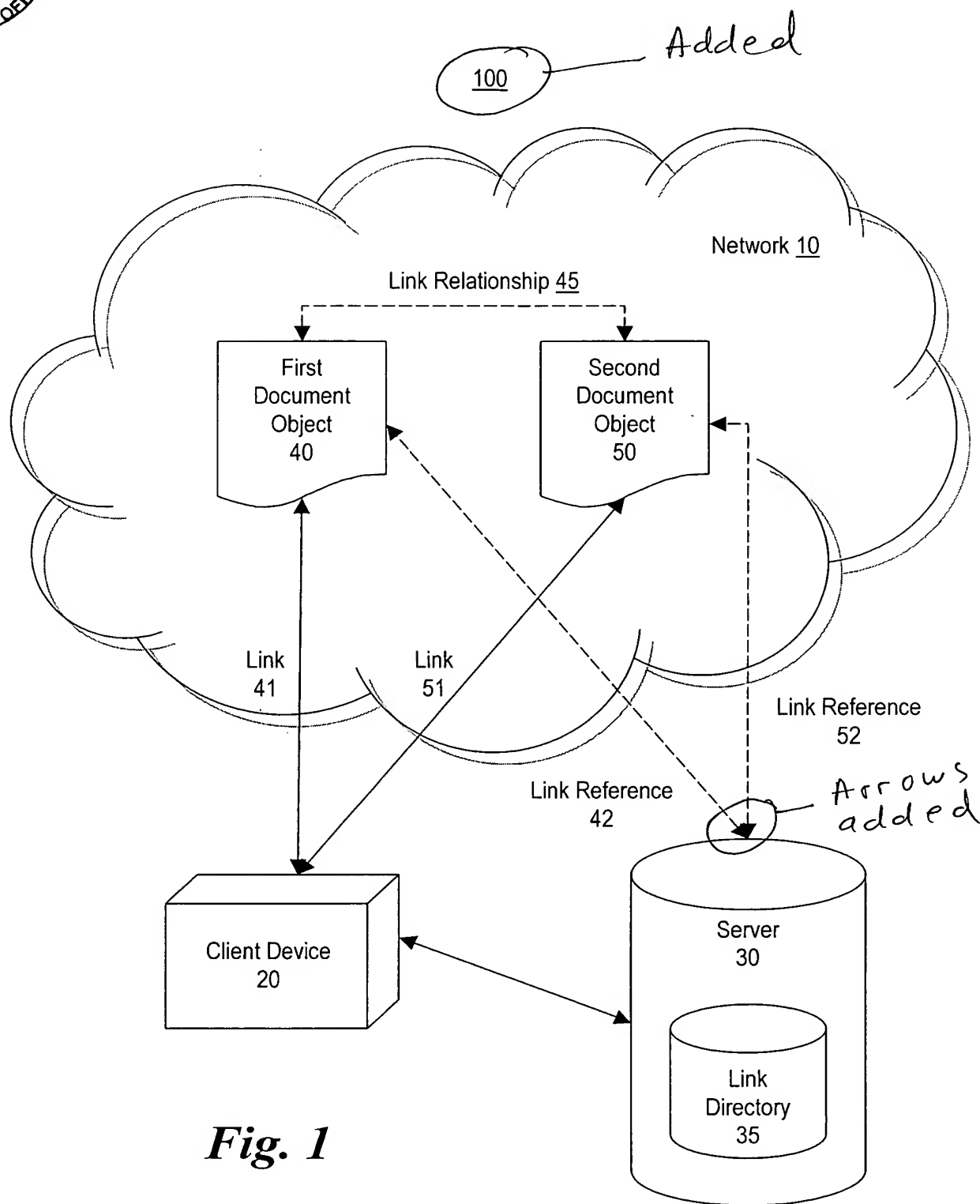


Fig. 1

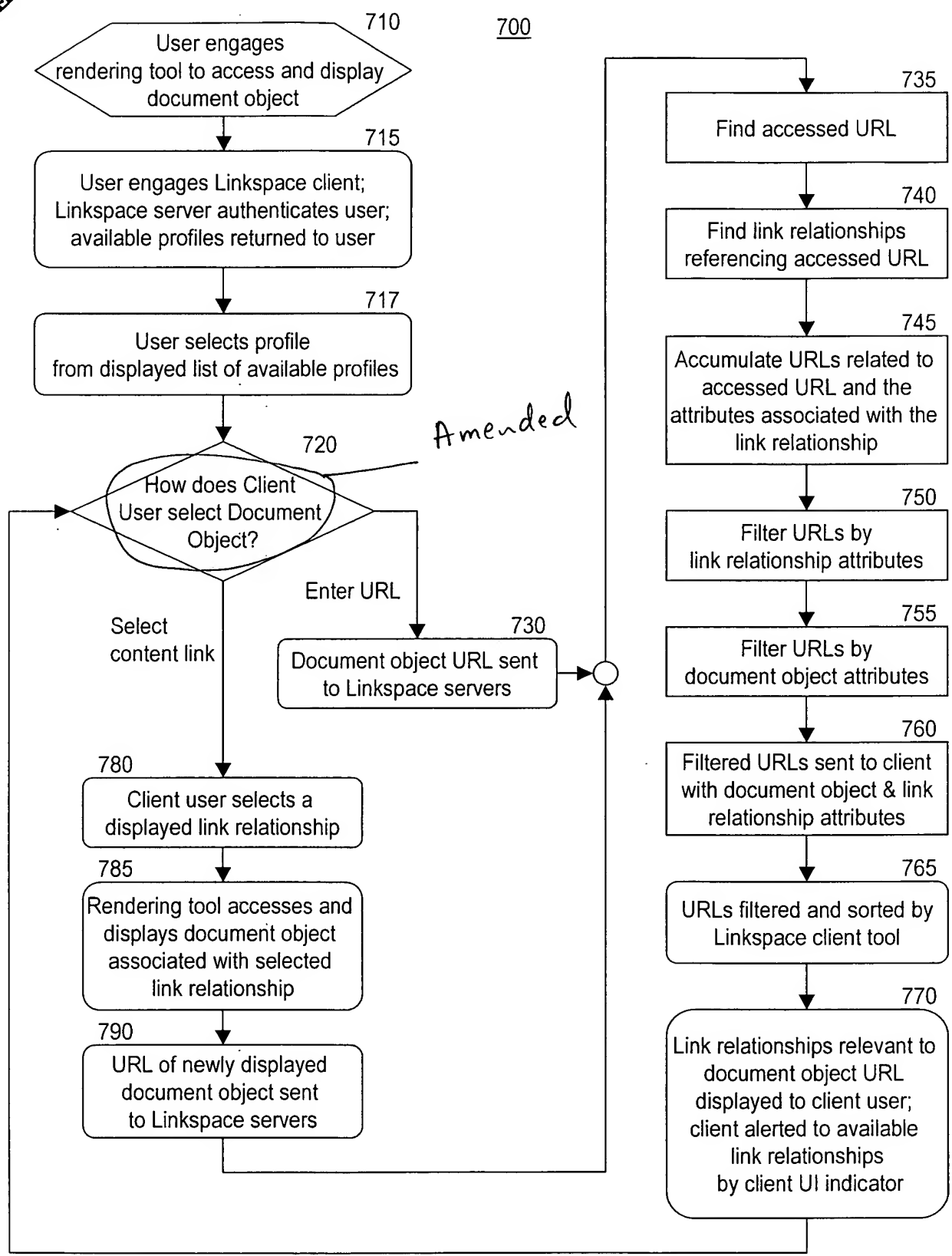
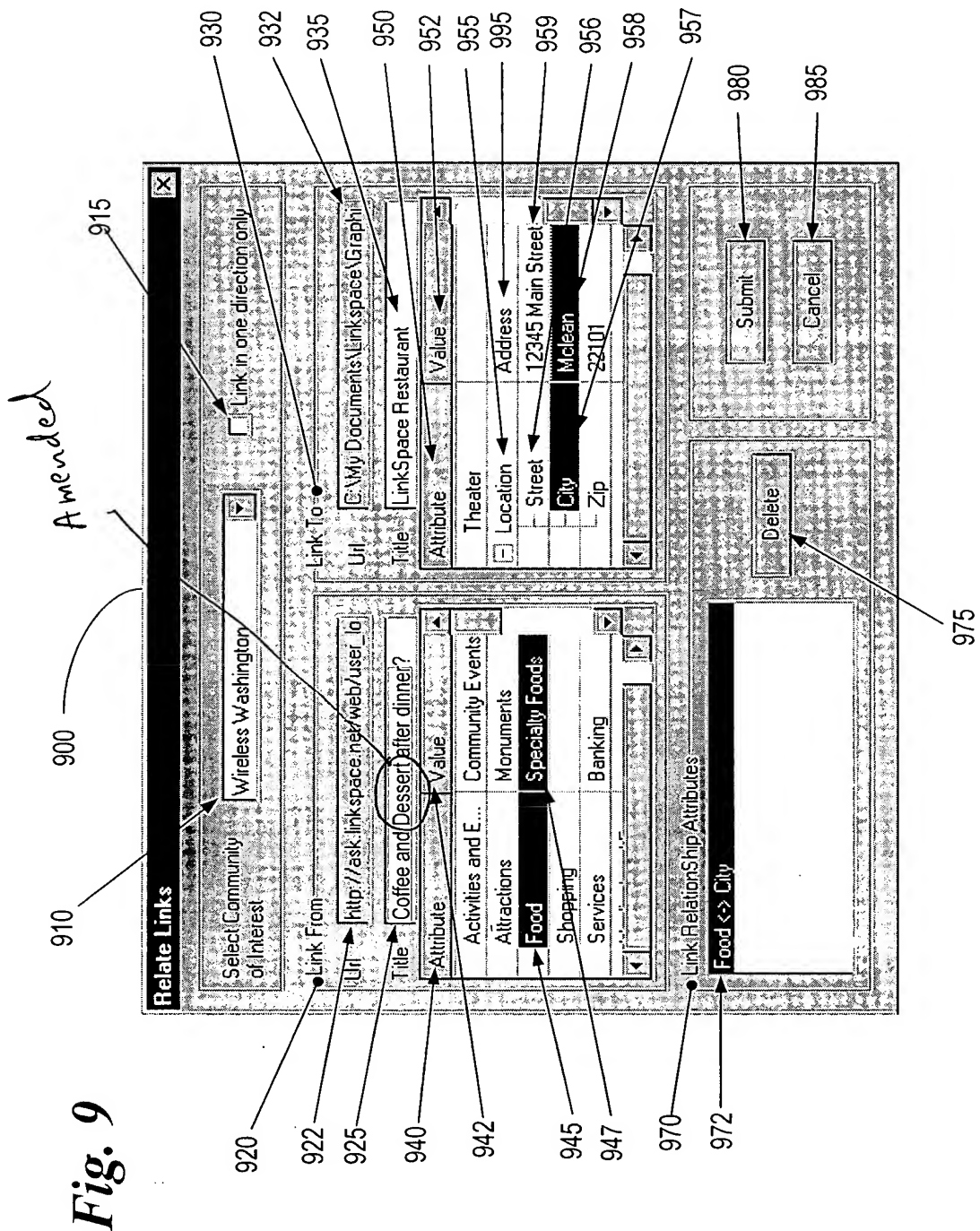


Fig. 7



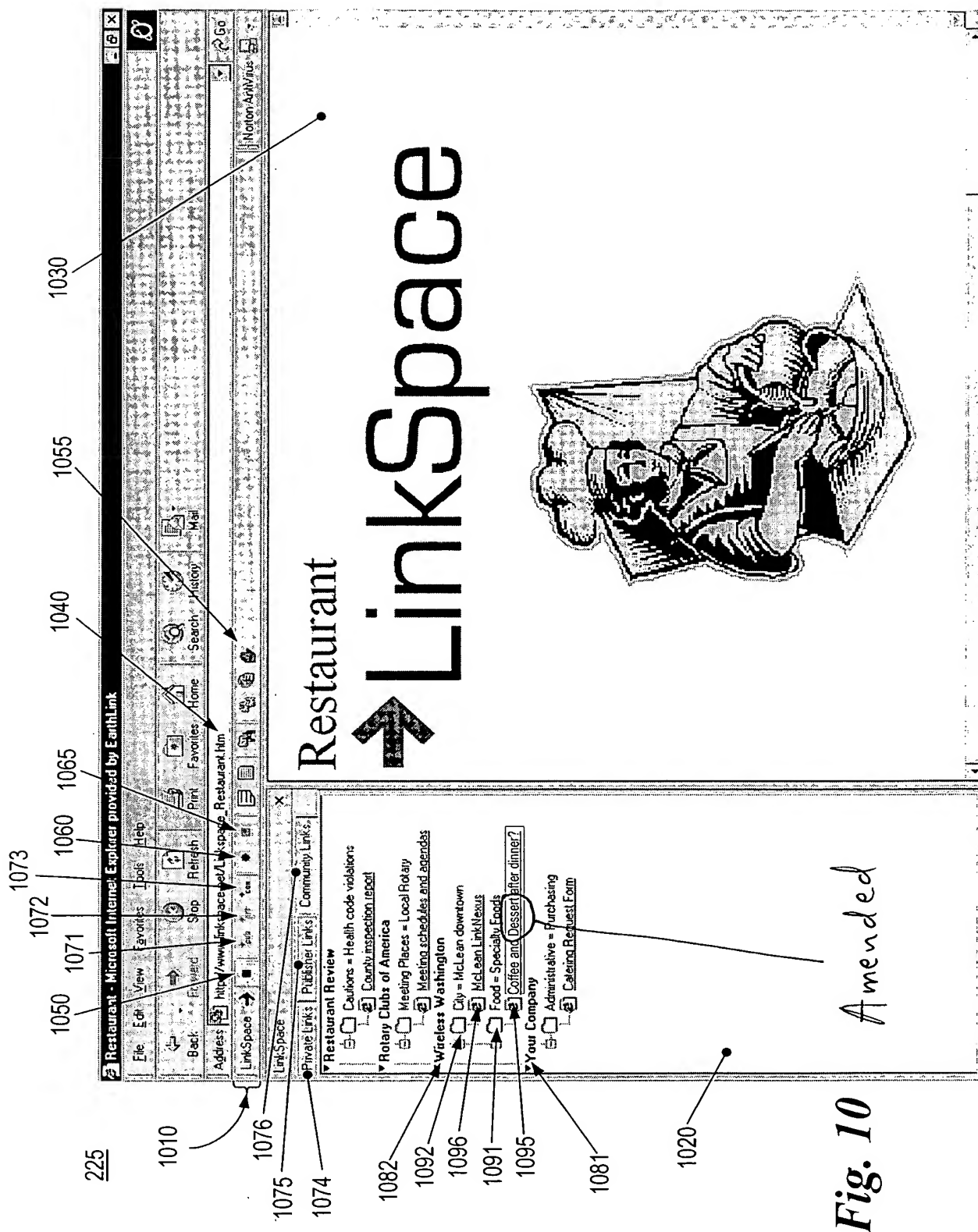


Fig. 10
 Amended